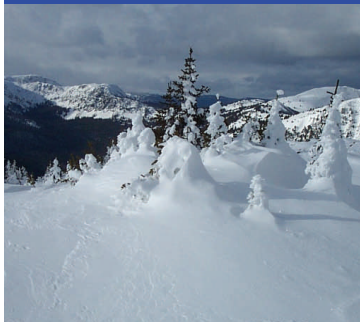




Volunteers for the LPO ORV Trails

Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources Northeast Region

Volunteers Provide Essential Work and Focus for the LPO Trail System



Special points of interest:

- Volunteer Groups Initiate Adopt-A-Trail Agreements
- LPO Trails Achievements
- LPO Grant Update
- Upcoming Project for 2007 the Season

Volunteer meetings & the new adopt-a-trail agreements kick-started the 2006 season. In addition to hosting volunteer meetings, DNR was fortunate to be invited to organized club meetings. The focus of these meetings was to identify what volunteers can do, working collaboratively with DNR, to help preserve and provide long term maintenance and management of the LPO ORV Trails. The meetings which were held in the early spring and summer, helped to initiate a new LPO adopt-a trail program.

Reports soon came in that the winter damage such as blown down trees, trail erosion and bridge washouts across trails was very extensive. So extensive, that opening many portions of the trails had to be done by hand rather than by machine.

ery. Reports of damaged bridges and crossings came in frequently.

The Eastside of the state experienced 90+ degree heat in May, immediately followed by untimely rain, this created prime conditions for a large spring bug population. The infamous LPO bugs that every living creature loves to hate were all present and accounted for. Adding to the fun were the isolated thunderstorms that instantly dropped tons of rain. Regardless of the weather, bugs or trail conditions, the trails continued to be cleared of blow down and other forest debris that could cause hazards or safety concerns to the users.

The partnership between DNR and volunteers of the LPO trails had begun. This partnership allowed 33 miles of trails to be

cleared by the end of May.

Also, loose cobble was removed from the Clark Creek connector trail and a cattle guard was rebuilt. Over 75 hours of volunteer time was logged for May alone. By the time July 4th weekend and the real heat of the summer hit, most of the work had already been completed.

By the tail end of the 2006 recreation season the LPO Trails had benefited from an estimated 375+ volunteer service hours, and approximately 50 miles of main and connector trails were repaired and/or maintained.

Organized club members from PANTRA of Post Falls, Idaho, the local "Ridge Top Riders" and members of the "LPO Focus Group" all play major roles in the volunteer program for the LPO trails.

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Washington Conservation Corps.

The Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) Crew out of Deer Park was recently allotted more time to perform work in the ORV program. This filled an operational gap on the LPO trail system.

As reports about water crossings and bridge conditions came in during the start of the riding season, it became apparent that there was a large work load for 2006.

This season, the Deer Park WCC crew repaired and improved a washed-out bridge, and repaired several other bridges on the Clark Creek connector trail. Most recently they began repairing a bridge that spans over 70ft. This bridge is located south of the Sherry Creek camping area and has provided significant challenges for the crew.

Regular trail reports from the

adopt-a-trail volunteers, such as bridge location and condition, provides DNR necessary information so we can best expedite our efforts and resources and respond in a timely manner.

With the skills and equipment the WCC program brings, 20 year old bridges are now being repaired for the next generation of users.

WCC is a wonderful resource, but due to limited

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Sherry Creek Bridge project

Washington Conservation Corps. (continued from page 1)

funding and other commitments within DNR and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the crew can only commit a small portion of their time to the LPO Trails.

Despite limited resources, DNR continues to strive to get the work done, and works collaboratively with other resources, such as volunteers, to preserve and maintain the high quality riding and outdoor experiences

that the LPO trail system has to offer.

WCC was established in 1983 and is modeled after the original Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's. Today, the WCC Program provides and opportunity for young adults (ages 18-25) to be a part of the National Service movement while making a difference right here in Washington State.

If you're up for the challenge, serving a term in the WCC program can be one of the most rewarding and valuable experiences of your life. Learn more about the WCC Program at: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/amp/wcc/>



LPO Focus Group member helps with work on a bridge in the fall of 05

Upcoming Volunteer Projects for 2007

The DNR has many goals for the 2007 season. One goal is to develop new trail signs, that will be embedded at major trail heads, junctions and crossings.

The first priority for signage includes directional signs and trail use designators that indicate the type of use that the trail has been designed for (such as single track only, ATV use, etc.) This project will be a major undertaking and will take time and coordination

to ensure accurate placement of signs.

Once the trails are signed and people have gotten used to them, then DNR will start education and enforcement activities to make sure all visitors adhere to the postings.

There is also a need of sign placement for:

- Property Boundary locations, such as when riding

onto USFS trails

- Geographic Location Signs
- Volunteer adopt-a-trail recognition signage
- Interpretive signs

There will be a continued push for signage as DNR begins to implement the LPO plan.



LPO focus group reviewing site plans

LPO Grant News

In January 2004 the LPO Focus Group was initiated as a vital part of the LPO management plan grant process (the LPO Planning Grant was awarded through the Inter-agency Committee for Outdoor Recreation.)

Over the last two years, the focus group members have attended multiple meetings and conducted volunteer work for the LPO trails and the ongoing grant process.

Focus Group members have been very dedicated to this project, and have traveled many miles to various locations over the past two years.

By attending the volunteer meetings they have all provided necessary and valuable insight and information concerning the LPO, which has been integral in the planning process.

This plan will be completed in the Spring of 2007. The draft

plan will go out for public comment through the SEPA process. Once completed, the next step will be to begin implementing the recommendations outlined in the plan. One of the first projects will be to establish a lease agreement within DNR for the Sherry Creek Campground and trailhead sites. Once these sites are under lease we can pursue funding to implement the improvements set forth in the LPO plan.

Frequent Contacts:

Brett Walker: brett.walker@dnr.wa.gov (509) 684-7474

Lon Emmett: lon.emmett@dnr.wa.gov (509) 684-7474

Department of Natural Resources Website:
www.dnr.wa.gov



This bull moose was spotted early this summer near the Sherry Creek Campground

DNR Volunteer Equipment and Support

For volunteers interested in planning spring work parties, DNR has trail maintenance equipment that can be checked out such as:

- Shovels and other digging tools
- Safety equipment(eye and hearing protection)
- Rock forks (very handy for pitching loose rocks off trail surface)
- Orange caution cones to warn approaching riders
- Pole pruners
- Caution or danger flagging.

It is our desire and mission in the Northeast Region Outdoor Recreation Program to effectively support and recognize all volunteer efforts.

If you know of others who wish to become volunteers for the LPO trail system please have them contact, **Lon Emmett Or Brett Walker**, DNR Staff for Northeast Region.

NE Region Headquarters
 (509) 684-7474

The LPO Block; A Working Forest

If you have traveled to the Sherry Creek campground recently, you may have noticed some changes to the surrounding landscape. These changes can be attributed to a recent Forest Health Improvement Sale that DNR conducted in the area.

The Sherrylock Timber Sale was completed during the Summer of 2006. The purpose of the sale was to manage forest health issues and to lower the fuel load in case of a wildland fire.

Several LPO volunteers have asked us the reason for the logging, stating that they, "don't like the way it looks after completion". There are several responses to this question, with the main reason being that DNR lands are managed for the benefit of the trust that they provide income for. These lands are working forest lands.

From a forest health perspective, this particular stand of timber was over crowded with mature trees, that left the area more susceptible to insect and disease damage as the stand ages. Additionally, with the stand being over-crowded, there was a high fire danger, that could lead to a large fire that would eliminate the entire stand and endanger the entire forest block. By selectively logging, and creating space between the trees, we have reduced the risk of a large crown fire that could lead to all the trees in the stand dying. By taking out trees that are weaker and less desirable we lessened the risk of fire and disease damage to the stand.

Though it might not be evident, people and wildlife management benefited from this timber sale. Benefits include:

- Thirteen miles of road improvements which included improving water drainage and road surfaces. Two new vehicle bridges and an arch pipe crossing were installed.
- Revenue for the Agriculture Schools Trust.
- Reduced risk of catastrophic stand replacement fire.
- Certain wildlife will thrive in these harvest units much better than in overcrowded stands.



Washington State Dept. of Natural
Resources Northeast Region
PO Box 190,
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-7474
Fax: (509) 684-7484

A New Recreation Strategy

One Million Acres of Opportunity

News from Olympia: DNR Washingtonian love being outdoors. It is part of the delight of living in the Evergreen State. Unlike so many other states, we are still blessed with most of the three million acres of trust lands, granted by the federal government at statehoods. Revenue from these lands support schools and universities, and are available for many forms of recreation-from hiking and hunting, to horse riding and trail riding on bikes and motorcycles

As the intensity of use has increases, the need outpaces the funding. In response , DNR is launching an new direction with a 2007-2009 budget request of 18 million in operating and capitol funding for improvements described herein affecting almost a million acres of state land.

Over the years, may local and statewide recreation organizations, advisory committees, focus groups, and other public agencies have worked with DNR to find ways to manage issues that arise as more and more people and more sophisticated equipment appear on the scene as the availability of places to recreate decreases. The support of these groups and the more than 35,000 volunteer hours dedicated to maintenance of trails and facilities is critical to Phase 1 of this new initiative. DNR is counting on your participation as we embark on this new approach.

As DNR moves into the future, your help is needed in the development of our landscapes across the state that focus on respect for the land, that provide a quality experience, and that fit compatibly within the working forest. Enclosed you will find a brochure with more information about this new recreation strategy.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

DNR - land manager and protector of natural resources

DNR, led by Lands Commissioner Sutherland, is the state's largest on-call fire department, responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires on 12.7 million acres of private and state-owned forestland. DNR geologists regulate surface mine reclamation and provide technical assistance for forestry and mining. DNR manages about 3 million acres of state-owned trust lands - forests, agricultural lands and commercial properties that earn income to build public schools, universities and other state institutions, and help fund local services in many counties. Most trust lands provide habitat for native plants and animals, clean water, and offer recreation opportunities. And DNR is steward of more than 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands - beaches and lands under Puget Sound, navigable lakes and rivers; and manages state natural areas.

For more information about DNR, visit us on the web at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/>